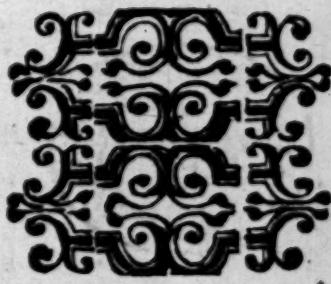


THE
Queenes Maiesties Entertainment

AT

WOODSTOCK



AT LONDON,
Printed for *Thomas Cadman.*

1585.



entertainment at Wydstocke

followed biought no lesse like to the Dernes maiestie: and al the rest that were present: for at his comming bee caused them to dismount themselves and satyn

You must fight no more, most valiant Knightes: yolerene must give place to vertue, and the Doubtfull hazzard you be in, by a most noble helpe must be ended. Therefore ceasse your fighte and followe me, so shall you heare that you would leaft beleue, and shall haue with me that shal most behoue you. And you sayre Lady, fal into this fellowship, where it shall appeare Sibilla said trewe, and your infortunes shall haue ende.

This said, he bringeth them al to y place where the Dernes Maiestie stood (in a fine Bower made of purpose couerted with greene Iuie, and seates made of earthe with sweete smelling hearbes, (eten suche a placc as you shall conjecture) and after some reverence beginning his tale, hee shewed a great prooef of his audacity, in which tale if you marke the woorth wth this present world, or were acquantain with the state of the deuises, you shoulde finde no lesse hidden then vterred, and no lesse vterred then shoulde deserue. Double reading vncer, euern of those (with whom I haue you a companion) that haue disposed their houres to the study of great matters.

Here followeth Hemetes tale.

Moste excellent Princes, sorepoyneted from aboue with your presence and your vertue to profite more then you are aware of, howe much you are bound to the immortall Goddes, and mortall men are bound to you, our present case will partly prooue: But before you vnderstand the woorth of your vertue, maye it please you to heare the variablenesse of our aduentures. Not long since in the Coundrie of Cambia which is situate neere the mouth of the riche River Indus, a mightie Duke bare dominion called Occanos: who had heire to his estate but one onely Daughter named Candina:

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this Lady then more fayrer then fortunate, lived most deere to her father and best beloued of his people: But to prooue that Beautie is not always a benifit, nor highest states be euer the happiest, it chaced within a while that *Caudina* being sought vnto by sundry that were great, and serued by many that were worthie, had more competitors of her beautie then did either well content her, or proued commodious vnto them: for loue, which is not led by order nor chosen by appoyntemente, had limed her affections vntreasonably with the liking of a knight, of estate but meane, but of value very greate called *Contarenus* who as he exceedinglie loued her, so the desires of diuers others was somewhat for his glorye, but nothing for his gain. In smal proces of time the secret fires of their fancies discouered by the smoake of their desires, bewrayed this matter vnto her father long time before they woulde. The Duke dissembling what he sawe, but determined to disapoynyt that he most misliked, neither made challenge to the Knight, nor charged his Daughter for any loue was betwixt them, but deuised a way as he thought, more sure, (but as it proued moste sorrowfull) to set these louers asunder by the worke of an enchantresse most cunning in her kind: he caused *Contarenus* to be conueyed vp and carried in the ayre frō the cost of *Cambia* to the very boouds of the *Ocean* sea: whiche cost *Occanon* twentye thousande Crownes (a deere price for repenteace:) but it is no nouelty for Princes to make their wils verie costly, and sometime to pay deere for their own displeasures. *Contarenus* thus strangely deuided from his ioye and perplexed aboue measure was charged by the enchantresse to weare this punishment with patience, which necessarie did put on, and destiny would put off: and ere seuen yeeres came about, she truely assured him, he shoulde haue for his reward the height of his desire: but first he shoulde fight with the hardiest knight, and see the worthiest Lady of the world. The whilst shee told him, hee must there take the gard of a blinde Hermit, who shoulde recover his sight, and he his satisfaction, both at one time, so shee lefte him on the earth, and tooke her way again into the ayre. *Caudina* now lacking log that she looked for, the sight & seruice of her knight, so soon in

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in those diseases that accompany such desires, as to be acombred with mistrust, curiosite, and exceeding vnrest. At last as Princes doe fewe thinges priuily, but they haue partakers of their Council: & heires to crowns lack never seruants of hope, which be curious to please the: The devise and dealing of *Occanon* came to the eares of his daughter, which beeing tolgy her: And is it euен so, quoth *Cardinal*? care kings for no right, then right cares for no kingdomes. It is neither the court of *Occanon*, nor the countrey of *Camb.* that I can account of, if *Contarens* be gone: Farewel most vnhappy countrey, and most cruel Father, that turnes me to this fortune, to follow my fates, whiche neyther greatnes of estate nor hazard of mine aduenture shal make mee forsake: but if I lose not my life, I wil finde *Contarens*; if he be in the world. This said, she pursueth her most hard determinations, and taking onely two Damsels with her in simple habit, with such things as were necessary, she straightwaises conueyed her selfe most closely from the borders of *Camb.* & with toyle too long to tell, passed perils past beliefe, til at last she arriued at the gate of *Sibilla*, where, by chaunce she met with a most noble knight ecclipped *Loricus*, by loue likewyse drawn thither, to learn what shold beryde him. This *Loricus* loued a Lady, that was matchlesse, in such maner as is strange; for after much deuise to attaine but the fauour that she would be pleased, hee myght but loue her without looking froward: and seeing no glaunce of her lyking (his vttermost deuotion) to find surely out her fancie (whiche she carried most closely,) he made a straunge assay: with all the semblance that might be. He shewed to set by her but lightly, that was so sought for of all, and better to couerte the passion, hee was not able to conquer, hee made shew of choise of a new mistris, that liued euer day in her eye: A peeciture of price, but farre from such a pearle, as his heart onely esteemed. And to this Idol he seemed to offer all hys loue and seruice, leauing no maner of obseruance vndone, that do loue appertayned: As wearing her colours on his backe, her pictures in his bosome, keeping her company aboue all others, and continuing most at her commandement: which espyed by this Lady (that indeed was liked no more) for whatsoeuer man may thinke might become or conuent though she cared not for his choysse, yet he shewed scorne of

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his change: and by ialousie disclosed that which loue could not discouer. Which *Larius* perciuing, he fel by & by to consider, that the want of his worth made his seruice vnaccepted, and no impossibility in her will to receiue one too serue her, that merited the honour of such fauour. Therefore hee left his owne countrey, and betooke himselfe altogether to trauel, and to armes, desiring with most indeuour but to deserue that reputation as this great and noble mistris woulde but thinke him worthy to be hers, though she would never bee none of his: so thinking no toyle too tough, nor no attempt too hard to attayne to renown, he wanded through the world till he came by painfull wayes to Sibillas grate, where he met with *Caudina*. Where these two louers having occasion to vsold al their fortunes: the Lady seeking to know the end of her trauel, and the knight advise for the ease of his hope, they both received this answere of *Sibilla*: That as they were nowe coupled by this fortune, so they should never depart fellowship, till they had found out a place, where men were most strōg, wome most sayre, the countrey most fertile, the people most wealthy, the government most iust, and the Priaces most worthy: so shoule the Lady see that would content her, so shoule the knight heare that might comfort him. Now most deere and best deseruing Lady, it falles to my purpose, and your praise, to say somewhat of my selfe. Olde though you see me here, & wrinckled and cast into a corner, yet once haue I been otherwise: A knight knowne and accounted of, with the best of the world: and living in court of most fame amongst a swarm of knyghtes and Ladies of great woorth and vertue, where beauty batte the basse & desire sought the gole. It chaunted me to loue a Lady, to be beloued of Loue himselfe, if he could but haue seene her: but as she was such as did excell, so was she of woonderfull condition, wthout disdaine to be desired, but most dainty to bee dealt with: for touch her, & she wil turne to 20. diuers shapes, yet to none but to content, as me thought, that thought stil to touch her, was a heauen: & so it seemed by my hold that was so loth to let her go. Till (alas) it liked her at last to put on the shape of a Tigris so terrible to behold, as I durst hold her no longer, and being so escaped, I could never more sette eie on her. Madam, thus began my paine, but you haere not yet my punishment:

frances wolaston her booke

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ment : beeing shifted from the sighte of that I sought aboue the world, and then little delighting to looke on any thing els, I tooke by & by a Pilgrimage to *Paphos* in *Cyprus*, trusting to heare of my mistris there, where *Venus* was most honoured. Whither when I came, as I began to step in at the doore of her temple, I was sodainly stroken blind: stonied at my mischaunce, and vnderstanding not the cause thereo: fell downe on my knees and said: O fairest of the Goddesses and farthest from cruelty, what hath been my fault, that thou art thus offended? Thy folly & presumption (quoth *Venus* Chaplen as I gesse) from my youth vp quoth I, haue I ever been an honourer of vertue, a delighter in learning, and a seruaunt of Loue. But it is no parted affection quoth he, that *Venus* wilbe honoured with. Books and beauty make no match, and it is an whole man or no man, that this Goddess wil haue to serue her, and therewithal taking me by the shoulders, he thrust me out of the Temple. So with sighes and sorrow I sate down in the porch, making intercessiō to *Apollo* (the peculiar God I honored) to haue compassion on my estate: Now faithfull prayers beyng hard ere they be ended: *Mercury* comes vnto me, and bid me be of good comfort, the goddesses be alfound to haue this fault: *Diana* with *Aeteō*: *Pallas* with *Arachne*: *Uno* with *Tirecias*, were angry aboue measure: so is *Venus* now with thee, the cause with the remedy shall be told thee at *Delphos*, whither straight I must carry thee. Which he had no sooner spoken, but by & by I was set in the temple of *Apollo*. Where first demanding my fault, the Oracle made answere: Thy feare and not thy faith: and what quoth I, may be my remedy? The best besides the beautifullest, the Oracle straight answered. And with this *Apollo* his priest tooke me by the hand, recounting vnto me the whole course of my life, whom I loued, and how I lost her. And when I told him of the faulnes of my seruice, & the faulnes of my meaning, of the variablenes of her conditiō, and at the last of the fearefulnes of her apperāce: Ah, good *Hemeres* quoth he, it is not the kind of wome to be cruell, it is but their countenance, & touching their variablenes, who wil not apply himselfe thereto, shall not muche please them, nor long hold them, neither is it to be found fault with. Nature her selfe loues variety, so it be done without deceit. Nowe for thy faulnes it

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Sufficeth not, the seruants of *Venus* must not onely haue faith, but also lacke feare, feare lost thee thy mistris, and thy boldnes to enter in to *Venus* Temple, being vnable to enter in, made her strike thee blind. But *Apollo* bid me tell thee, the Gods wil receiue, whom women forsake, thy eyes shut vp from delight, shall geue thy minde more open vnder-standing: this punishment shall be thy profit, *Venus* can barre thee but from her felicity of loue: but for the deuotion thou bearest to *Apollo*, hee giues thee this gift, to be able to discipher the destinie of e-very one in loue, and better to aduise them, then the best of her Darlings. And furthermore, doth promise thee, that in revolution of yeres thou shalt recover thy sight: but this shall not betide thee till at one time, and in one place, in a countrie of most peace, two of the most valiant knights shal fight, two of the most constant louers shal meet, and the most vertuous Lady of the world shall be there to looke on. And when thy eyes shal beholde what thy heart delighteth in, euen a Lady in whom inhabiteth the most vertue, Learning, and beauty, that euer yet was in creature, then shal they be opened, and that shall bee thy warrant.

Al *Apollo* sayeth is sooth: the while, it is determined that thou shalte dwell in an Hermitage, where nothing that longes vnto Natures vse, shall bee lackinge vnto thee: so sodainely I was shifted vnto this hill harde by, where I haue wintered manye a yeere farre from the woes and wrangnes, the worlde besides is full of. And nowe beste Ladye and moste beautifull, so tearemed of the Oracle, and so thought of in the world: what the Idchантresse tolde *Contarenumus*: *Sibilla* shewed *Caudina*, and *Loricus*: and *Apollo* said to me, by your most happy comming is veryfied, The most hardy knights *Cont.* and *Lori*. haue here fought, the most constant Louers *Cont.* and *Caudina* here be met, and I poore *Hemetes* (as the knight knowes ful lōg blind) haue received my sight. Al which happened by vertue of your grace, which the best so much honor, & we most boūd vnto you: and so I present these noble persōs to please you with their seruice, & my self to serue you euer with my prayers, & leauing these Louers to their delights, must leaue *Loric.* to this aduise. Knight, prosecute thy purpose, it is noble, learning by me nor to feare of thy self to

take

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take paine: remembryng nothing notable is woon without difficulty; *Hercules* had by his laboures his renoune, and his end by his Loue: *Loricus*, thy end wilbe reward, at least most reputation, with noblest women most esteemed. But I feare I haue too lōg tyred your most noble eares, & therfore only now I beseech your Ma. with your happye presence to honor my poore home, whither straight I mean to guide you.

This Learned or long tale being brought to his end: the poore Hermit loden as it were with beades and other such ornaments of his professiō, begins to tread the way before the Queen, which her Maiestie espyng, refused her steed, and betook her selfin like sort to the vse of her feet, & accompanying the Hermit (her self waited on of the rest) fel into some discourse & praise of his good tale, which not ended, or rather scarce fully begun, the Q. Ma. had in sight the house, which indeede was a place by art so reared from the ground, as never before, nor hereafter, shal I see y like. Firstit was incōpassed the number of 200. paces round with lattice, the place of the princes entrance bedeck with Iuy & spanges of gold plate, the glimering wherof was such, that men of great iudgement might haue held themselves at stay. The ground frō thence reared little & litle to the altitude of forty foot or more, the path in mounting couered with fresh turves, with such art, that a great many made question of his skil, which was y Layer. The way was railed with lattice, beset with sweet flowres & Iuy, as before: aboue in the house was a Table made in order of a halfe moon or more, couered w green turves (& so replenished w sorts of dainty, & those diners dishes beloging to banquet, that the beholders might wel haue though, Iupit. had hoped the comming, & trusted the pleasing by banquet of his faire Europa.) At one ende therof somewhat distāt, frō y other, was placed another table (but round) with a chayre costly made of Erymon velvet, imbrodered with branches & pictures of wild beasts & trees, as it had beene a peece of woorke made in the desartes. But leaste I hold you too longe, this mounte made, as I haue sayde, abdute an Oake, the toppe wherof was inforsed by strength too bende

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downe her branches to couer the house, whiche was done wþt such art, that þ þraise of the beholders comming wold haue sufficed the woorker for his trauel: although hee was not so satisfied for his skil, by more then 40. pounds. A number of fine Pictures with posies of the Noble or men of great credite, was in like sorte hanging there, wherewith many were in loue, and aboue the rest the French Embassadour, whiche was present at these sightes, made great suite to haue some of them. The whiche posies, with some perfect note of their pictures, I would haue presented vnto you: but because the Allegories are hard to be understood, without some knowledge of the inuentors, I haue chosen my tyme rather when my selfe shall be present, & more the sooner, because I woulde leaue nothing vnfurnished of my firste determination. Now Hemetes hauing brought her Maiesty to the entraunce of this place sayde:

Here most Noble Lady, hauing now brought you to this most simple Hermitage, where you shal see smal cunning, but of nature, & no cost, but of good wil, my houre approaching for my orrisones (which according to my vow I must never breake) I must here leaue your maiestie, promising to pray, as for my selfe, that whosoeuer wish you best, may never wish in vayne.

Thus the Hermite departes, & the Queenes Maiesty addresseth her selfe with merry cheere to banqueting, which to encrease a diuine sound of vnaquainted instruments in the hollow roome vnder the house, made such stroakes of pleasure, & moued such delights, that if Apollo himselfe had byn there, I thinke hee would haue intreated the learning of their skill, or at the leaste forgotten the pleasant remembrance of his sweete Daphnes. Her Maiesty thus in the middest of this mirth might espy the Queen of the Fayry drawen with 6. children in a waggon of state: the Boies branely attired, & her selfe very costly apparelled, whose present shew might wel argue her immortality, and presenting her selfe to the Queens Maiesty, she spake as followeth.

As I did roame abroade in wooddy range,
In shade to shun the heate of Sunny day:

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I met a sorrowing knight in passion strange.

by whom I learned, that coasting on this way

I should ere long your highnesse here espie,

to whom who bears a greater loue then I?

Which then tooke roote still mounting vp on height,

when I behelde you last nigh to this place,

with gratiouse speech appeasing cruell fighete.

This loue hath caused me transforme my face,

and in your hue to come before your eyne,

now white, then blacke, your frende, the fayery Queene.

Which marking all, as all to me is knownen,

your face, your grace, your gouernment of state,

your passing sprite whereby your fame is blowen:

doe knowe by certeins kill you haue no mate:

and that no man throughout the worlde hath scene

a priuce that may compare with th' English Queene.

This knowledge kends in me so hot desire

to see your highnesse here in this my walke

as since your parting hence I flam'de in fire

till your returne that I might heare you talke,

that none to you a better harte doth beare

my selfe in speche to you might make it cleare.

In signe whereof accept most sacred Queene,

this simple token wrought within this woodc

which as but base so better should haue beene

If I had not at suddaine understande

of your arriuall here, which made me take

what came to hande, and no great choise to make!

Her speache thus ended shee deliuered her gifte, whiche was
a gaine for her Dailelie of greate price, wheron the amborderer

C

had

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had bestowed the summe of his coming, which she received with
yelding thanks: to whom the sayy Dacene replied:

The thing is farre beneath both your deserte,
and my desire, yet am I glad to heare
your highnesse take it thus in so good parte,
which for my selfe, if it like you to weare:
then shall I reape the frute of happie minde,
as honored by you the honor of your kinde.

To gratifie the rest of the Ladies present, there was deuised
many excellente and fine smelling Rosegayes made of all cul-
lers to euery one whereof was annexed a posy of two verteres, gi-
uen by a handmayde of the sayy Dacene, and one aboue the rest
of greatest pricke for the Queenes Maiestie with her posie in I-
talian, which because I neither understande it, nor scarce canne
writte it to be understood: I leaue also till my next coming to vi-
site you: for the rest as they weare gitten, I haue sette downe:
every seuerall posie was sayre written and bordered about con-
ningly with seuerall branches excellent to bcholde.

L. Darby.

The vertues foure went wandring once and harbarkesse astray,
Till Darby gaue them roome to rest whereas they now may stay.

*L. War-
wick.*

If your deserte surpasseth not my silly pen and speache,
Some other me shuld view them then, which now do passe my reach.

*L. Hus-
don.*

For husbande, children, and your selfe, or ornaments of fame,
You are aboue comparison, a right thrice happie dame,

*L. Ha-
ward.*

The meanes that make a mother bleste, you haue a frusefull race,
A noble dame, a patient wife, whats this but blessed case.

L. Susau.

Take heede least in a moode, dame *Venus* worke your woe,
For spight of right must worke in her, you passe her beautie so.

*L. Mary
Vere.*

Where vertue, birth, and beauty to, are thus in one mould cast,
This place to simple is for her seat with gods let her be plast.

Misericordia

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Trustie and true, secrete and sage in place where you do serue.
With wise foresight these prayses loe your worthinessse deserue.

Mistris
Skidmore.

For longe and faithfull seruice sake which hath abidden tuche,
good *Parry* is a paragon, shew me a nother suche.

M. Parry.

Good liking vpon choise made way, to bring you first in place,
Which you mainteine by modest meane still in your Princes grace.

M. Ab-
bington.

Tho yonge in yeares yet olde in wit, a gest dew to your race,
If you holde on as you begine who ist youle not deface?

M. Sidney

Whē *Phebus* saw fayre *Hopton* come to Court & leaue the towre,
He spread his beames with merry lookes that erst before did lower.

M. Hoptō-

For noble race, and vertues gifte, compare you with the best,
Who list to seeke, in you shall finde, no lesse then in the rest.

M. Katharine
Ho-
warde.

Whic doe men set their sights to feede on Pictures set in goulde?
Sith *Garret* giues the very vewe of natures modest moulde.

M. Gar-
ret.

In guesse is guile, coniectures fayle, your graces be well knownen:
Which who denies, same saith he lies, by whom the brute is blowen.

M. Brid-
ges.

Apollo seeing his Burroughes browes his *Daphne* did forgettē,
so stald in stay, so rapped in loue as he standes musing yet.

M. Bur-
rough.

You gallants giue the roome a Dame of price doth come,
Coniecture what your bragges may be whē she hath cast the summe *Knowles*.

Mistris

Somme say dame nature tooke in care, to keepe *Cornelias* moulde,
But *Howardes* 'tis about her neeske esframed in finest goulde.

M. Frances
Howarde.

I think (good sir) I haue within little repeated the names of
those that were Ladies and maides of Honor, at these sightes,
wherein you shall see the vaine, that runneth to the liking of
such kinds. Now her Maiestie being risen: with good cheere,
accompained with the Ducene of the fayre and the Ladye
Caudina; she commeth from her banuite, and at her departure
the Lady *Caudina* sayth:

Let thankes suffice in werde where strength in pow're doth saynte.
leue pitch in prayer from Heauen to craue requite,

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stande for rewad to such a sacred Saint,
in whom on earth the goddes in Heauen delighte,
whose moulde when nature made she gan to stande,
in wonder of the worke she had in hande.

The goddes for all their good bestowed on man,
accept our speeche, as fruete of thankfull hearte:
which sith it is the vtmost that we can,
let humble thankes be price for your deserte.
Contente your selfe with that contentes the gods,
twixt whome and you I see such little oddes.

The dape thus spente, her Maiestie tooke her coach with ioy
in remembryng what had passed, recounting with her selfe and
other's how well she had spente the after noon, and as it fell of
necessitie in her waye homewarde, closelie in an Oke she hearde
y sound bothe of voice and instrument of y exelentest now living
whose pleasantnesse therin broug a great liking wth a willing eare
to y purport whiche I haue hardly gotten to present you withal:
assuredlie I see greate inuention therein, and yet no more then
the iust fame of the deuiler doth bothe deserue and carrie,

*The songe
in the Oke*

The man whose thoughts against him doe conspire,
in whome mishap her story did depeante:
The man of woo, the matter of desyre,
free of the dead that lives in endlesse plainte:
His sprite am I within this desart wonne,
to rew^e his case whose cause I cannot shune.
Dispare my name who never seek^e releife,
frended of none, vnto my selfe my soe,
An idle care mayntayned by firme beleife,
that prayse of faith shall through my tormentes growe.
And count the hopes that other hertes doe ease,
but base conceates the common sorte to please.

entertainment at Woodstocke.

I am most sure that I shall not attaine,
the onely good wherein the ioy doth lye.

I haue no power my passions to refraine,
but wayle the want which nought els may supply.

Whereby my life the shape of death, must beare
that death, which feeleth the worst that life doth feare.

But what availes with Tragical complaint,
not hoping helpe, the furies to awake?

Or why should I the happie mindes acquainte
with dolefull tunes, their settled peace to shake?

O yee that here behold infortunes fare,
there is no griefe that may with mine compare.

Now was it darke nighthe, and her Maiestie filled with conceites, returneth home, leauing earnest command that the whole in order as it fell, shold be brought her in writing, whiche being done, as I heare, she vsed, besides her owne skill, the helpe of the devisor, & how thinges were made I know not, but sure I am her Maiestie hath often in speech some part hereof with mirth at the remembraunce.

But to keepe my promise for the rest, I will begin in order to make you priuy of the sequel: which indeed followeth, as an apt consequent to what is past. Therefore shal you vnderstande, that vpon the 20. day of the same moneth, the Queene being disposed to spend her tyme with some delights, this Comedy was presented, acted before her Maiestie.

And the more to egge you forward with desire of the end, assure your selfe, it was as well thought of, as anye thinge ever done before her Maiestie, not onely of her, but of the rest: in such sort, that her Graces passions, and other the Ladies could not but shew it selfe in open place more then euer hath beeene seene.

C 3

The Queenes Maiesties
The Actors names.

1 Roxane Caudinas	6 Contarenus Cau- maide.	dinas Louer.
2 Occanon the Duke.	7 Nipbe Cau-	
3 Achates his Coun- seller.	dinas other	
4 Queen of the fairy.	8 Alexandro and	
5 Caudina the Dukes daughter.	9 Guilfrido, Pa- ges.	

Roxane.

I thinke as yet all here hath fresh in minde,
A strange aduenture past in aet of late,
How that a Lady borne nigh to the Inde,
arriued here in quest of louing mate:
Whom she did finde by such aduenturous sort,
as erst the Hermite shewed by large report.

Which Hermite then if you remember well,
requirde the Prince and Lady of this land,
That she with her would let the Lady dwell:
and wayting still on her, attend at hande:
And that the Knight in Court there might remayne,
till that they both returned home agaync.

Which thing consented too by Princes voyce,
they haue pursude and wayted on the trayne,
Till late desire hath made them alter choyse:

the

entertainment at Woodstocke.

the Ladies heart stil longing home agayne,
And glad to winne the Duke her Fathers will:
for mouing whom she knoweth she hath done yll.

For though at first in heat she set him light,
and forst by fathers wrong, went wandring so,
Yet doth she stil suspect strong Natures might,
who checking chaffe sure workes the chafer woe:
Which to appeare, is now her chiefe desire,
and therefore home she meaneth to retire.

Which thing to compasse well, and leaue no part
of dutie vnfulfulfilde both here and there,
She with the fairy Queene is gone apart,
of whom she hopes the rediest way to heare:
How to returne with loue from whence she came,
as she for loue departed from the same.

Now wil'd she me(as loth to moue offence)
if she were cald for ere she could come backe,
To be in place, and not to part from hence,
that for excuse in me might be no lack:
Til whose returne faire Ladies if I may,
among you with your leaue I meane to stay.

Achates. Occanon.

Now good my Lord, let mourning moane haue end,
the harme is yours, your selfe this still to wracke,
The Heauens I trust some better newes will send,
the Gods which suffered you these paynes to take,
Intend you to behold with cheerefull eye:
your helpe is neere, it must of force so be.

Occan. In seeking hope, hap flieth stil away,
my weary corpes is ready for to faynt,
Then death, that debt which I at length must pay,
by yeelding life receiue, and end my plaint.
Now is the time most for to pleasure me,
when I in griefe, doe craue it thus of thee.

The Queenes Maiesties

Who hath not heretofore beheld on stage,
the hard conflict which breach of duety breeds,
With natures might in way to vanquish rage,
let him behold me and my daughters deedes:
Twixt whom as strange contempt hath caused flame,
so nature seekes againe to quench the same.
She set her loue where she her selfe likt best,
I much mislikt because her choise did light,
Beneath her birth though I might like the rest:
to stay this stremme I did all that I might.
First with perswasions sweete I did beginne,
to trye if so my daughter I could winne.
The more I chargde, the sorer she repeld,
wherefore my labout lost, I changde my way,
And from my Court her Louer I expeld,
thereby in hope to worke my daughters stay.
But while I sought to wring her from her loue,
loue wrought her cleane from me, as thende did proue.
No sooner did she finde her selfe alone,
bereft of him whom she a loue did chuse.
But secretly her selfe must needes be gone:
her state, her traine, her wealth, she did refuse:
And held that happe to be her onely blisse,
him to inioy whom she in Court did misse.
Her parting first, because it did proceede,
from vilde contempt of duety to her Syre,
Did stirre my choler much, for that her deed,
till nature did arrest, and wrought desire
To haue my child restorde to me againe,
whose absence then had wrought my woe and paine.
Then I began such parentes to accuse,
as be too sowre to those they haue begot,
And found of al, them farthest from excuse,
whose

entertainment at Woodstocke

whose noble state doth make them more of note,
On them and theirs Loue hath the greatest power,
therefore on Loue they ought the least to lower,

A quiet life where neede no labour willes,
A seemely face whereon all eyes be cast,
A diet where desire the heart fulfils,
A world of sport while day, while night doth last,
How can these things but make Loue open a way,
and fancy force with her delights to play?

Here did I fayle in seeking to withstand,
where I confesse the power of loue is most,
Hence did proceed the leauing of my land
to finde her out, which I so lewdly lost.
This is the cause why in such simple case,
I wander seeking her from place to place.

So as I feele my weery bones to shrinke,
not able long my fainting corpes to beare,
Sleepe doth oppresse my limmes which gin to sinke,
while slumbring easie relieves my toylesome cheare.
I pray you Sir, depart not hence from me.
your faithful helpe mainteynes my hope I see.

Acha. I wil my Lord not once part from your side,
take you your rest, your trauels doe it craue,
Here fast by you I am resolued to byde,
to gard you so, as naught your rest deprave.

The griefe of minde I see works wondrous things,
commanding al estates both Lords and kings.

Roxa. O Goddes what haue I heard, O cruel fates,
must that needs fal which you wil needs fulfill;
My Lord the Duke to leaue his Princely states,
and wandring thus to yeeld to Fortunes will?
Then doe I see that eu'en as you please,
men reape their rest and feele their most disease.

D

This

The Queenes Maiesties

This haughty Duke which set so light by loue,
as though he could commaund him to obey,
Doth now himselfe by strange aduentures proue:
that against Loues force no power beareth sway:
For where Loue liues at will, he soonest dies,
and where he flaunts at ful thence soonest flies.

But yet to learne more certainly whats past,
ere that to him my selfe I doe bewray,
At this good man I meane to haue a cast,
of whom I will learne out if that I may:
By way of glaunce who tis that lyeth heere,
and what might cause this his so ruthful cheere.

If it be not he, then is my labour lost,
and being but few words the cost is small,
If it be he, then hence straight will I post,
and to my Ladies eares reporte it all:
That she therby may presently aduise,
what good therin may to her state arise.

Good Sir I see you sad which greeueth me,
whom curchy makes partaken of your woe,
To ryp your griefe vnpleasant it wil be,
as to all pained soules it is I know:
Yet if I may finde such grace in your eie,
tell me what man this is that here doth lie.

Acb. Faire Lady this your curteous speech doth craue,
disclose of all that careful brest doth hide,
In him that lyeth here the world may haue,
wherein with maze to let their minds abide.
A Prince he is, whom fortune doth constraine,
with fruitlesse toyle to travell stil in vaine.

Rox. A Prince? I pray you where, and of what land?

Acb. An Asian Lord the great Cambaian Duke.

Rox. What fate might force him take this toyle in hand?

Acb.

entertainment at Woodstocke

Ach. To find his daughter out these paines he took.

Rox. Why where is she, how hapt he her to leese?

Ach. Because in loue her minde he did displease.

Rox. Perhaps he did not like where she had lou'd,

Ach. Euen so it was: for hee from court remou'd

her friend, for whom her countrey she forsooke,

As not of force her Louers lacke to beare:

which knownen, the Duke to trauel him betooke:

To find her out whom Nature made so deare,

With mynde resolu'd if he her mett againe,

to thinke such hap sweet pay for all his payne.

Rox. And hath he not as yet heard where she is?

Ach. Not yet, but that *Sibilla* bade him goe,

to such a soyle as I suppose is this,

and there to haue his hope and end his woe,

Rox. These things be strāge, yet stranger things haue been

accomplisht here, as I my selfe haue seen.

Well Sir, I am to thinke my selfe much bound,

for this your curchy shew'd at my request,

And if your ease may grow within this ground,

by meanes of me, sure I wil doe my best.

But Sir, may I desire your Princes daughters named?

Ach. *Gaudina* she is called of worthy fame.

Rox. I thank you Sir, I can no longer stay,

but for requisite commaund me any way.

Ach. I thanke you for your curtesie.

Rox. Now to my L. Ile goe with speed,

that hearing this she may accordingly proceed. *Exit.*

Ocation from sleepe.

Ah, ah, it is but vaine to hope in sleepe,

to purchase ease, where waking fills with care:

In sleepe I felt my slumbering eies did weepe,

my heart did pant for griefe in minde I bare.

Now let vs passe vnto our iourneys end,

til we find out what chance the Gods will send.

The Queenes Maiesties

Ach. My Lord, if words that passe from faithfull heart
may stay your mynd, my hope here bid's me stay,
For marking all that's here in every part,
and minding that which *Sibyl* once did say:
Me thinke this place should be the happy land,
where we should rest, as she bare vs in hand.

Besides while you tooke rest, a Lady came
with shew of griefe, that your mishaps were such,
And learning both yours and your daughters name,
did passe away: all which perswade me much:
That if you stay til she agayne returne,
your heauy heart with ioyful newes shal burne.

Occa. The neerer hope to haue that I desire,
to see my child whom I so farre haue sought,
The more I burne, the greater is my fire,
for feare to faile of that to winne I thought,
The wished end requites the toile that's past,
and ioy for griefe is recompense at last.

What is the force of fathers care I see,
though I my selfe am father to my care,
To this effect the same hath wrought in me,
that though it be among examples rare:
My selfe I haue distroyed of my state,
to find my child which I did lose of late.

Ach. For great offence my Lord the painment great,
the meanest man feeles not the greatest fall,
You rew, with time that you did worke in heat,
and yet you find to comfort you withal:
This cost to *Sibilles* words so doth agree.
But sir behold what Ladys do I see:

The Fairy Queene and Roxane entred.
A royll blood her vertue wil bewray,
though Fortune seek her neere so to oppresse,
And noble race wil not run faire astray.

entertainment at Woodstocke.

but of her selfe wil worke her owne redresse:
As I my selfe euen now haue found most true,
in this your Ladies case whom I so rue.

She fearing fathers wrath for her offence,
though by constraint vnkindly causd to stray,
As she intends with speede departure hence,
so wil she not but wisely part away,
And for aduise resorted vnto me,
to learne what way her best returne might be.

My Councel was, since fates had found the meane,
the English Queene to make for her defence,
To whose assur'd stay she might well leane
to swage her fathers wrath, so wrought for her offence:
For none could helpe her more, nor so as she,
if with such sure her grace content might be.

Her credit is so good, her fame so flies,
her Honour such, her wisedome so in note,
Her name so knowne to all mens eares and eies,
as better mean could nowhere els be gotte,
Then if he might at her hands vnderstand,
what she hath heard and seen within her land.

Whereon when we resolu'd by ioynt assent,
and I at her request was drawing neare,
To moue the suit according as we ment,
I met you by the way which had byn heare:
By whom I learned a very speedy meane,
to worke her weale and voyde al terror cleane,
But mayde where is the Duke of whom you speake,
which tooke this toyle for your good Ladies sake?

Rox. Yon same is he whose strange attire,
descries his griefe and points at his desire.

Queen. Wel: Ile feele his pulse. Sir knight I heare,
you are inquest your daughter here to find.

The Queens Maiesties

In weed disguisid because behaps you feare,
least being known contrary to your mynd.

Your seerch might grow too long, yet may it be,
your state descride you may find helpe of me.

Occa. Alas Madam, and must it needs be so?
must griefe burst out? and must my careful thought,
Make you by speech partaker of my woe? I do not thinke
wherein the wrong that I haue iustly wrought
vnto my selfe, shal lead me on along, I am in wonder of
til her I find whose wandring is my wrong.

My natuе Countrey is, where Indies streme,
doth enter Sea, nigh to th' Cambrian coste,
From whence I come into this famous realme,
to seeke my child which by mischance I lost,
There Duke I am, a Lord of fruitful soyle,
though Fortunes force now taxe me with this toyle.

Queen. How hap your child did leue you so alone?
was there no helpe but she must needs be gone?

Occa. She would needs louewhere I mislikid much,
a man of meane estate of base degree,
She is my only care and his case such,
as though wel borne, a subiect yet to me,
Whom I in heate remou'd from her: but she
in greater heat remou'd her self from me.

Queen. Me thinks these words in such high state bewray
more egar minde then gift of great conceate,
A Princesse peere a Duke should seek to stay,
and not against fume with wit to worke debate.
Are you so farre misledde for want of skill,
as you know not that louewil haue his will?

He knowes no peere; al states stoupe to his cheeke,
he spares no prince no more then meane estate,
But makes ech one obey him at a becke:
He takes great storne to haue tell of a mate.

But

entertainment at Woodstocke.

But where he findes such match as he doth like,
without gainsay he bends his bow to strike.

Because you are a Prince of high degree,
in Countrey where you dwell, you hold it light
That Loue should wound your only heire I see,
but were you of farre more puissant might,
And she of price as peerelesse as may be,
loue hath subdu'de farre brauer Dames then she.

Occa. Madam I must confess the force of loue,
to be a thing in vaine against to bend,
Which blind reason first did after proue,
to set vs so as we can not defend,
And so triumphing when we cannot see,
we must confess, who is the God but he?

Queen. As who should say, Loue never hits aright,
but beetle like bereau'd of sight doth runne,
Not wayng worth, nor marking where to light,
But loue oft times by due desart is wonne,
And most prest on in Dames of highest prisē,
wherfore iudge right, for loue oft times is wise.
Perhaps your daughters Loue sprang from desart,
perhaps the persons worth procur'de her choise,
Perhaps he was so tyed he could not start
from her, commaunding him by vertues voyce,
And would you seeme at such linke to repine,
which vertue did with her owne fingers twyne?

Therefore make your account this griefe you feele,
proceeds from offence gainst such a power,
And never hope to winne your better weale,
till that his wrath appeasd, he leane to lower.
Loue is a Lord, who lothes, hym him he shames,
not sparing Lordes, not sparing princely Dames,
And chiefly where with vertue he doth linke,
for vertues sake, where loue doth like to light,

The Queenes Maiesties

There can no force enforce his force to shrinke,
he trusts so much to his confederates might:
Wherefore your daughters loue for vertues sake,
worke what you could, no ouerthrow would take.

Ocean. I never did repine where vertues loue did link,
but where there seem'd Disperagement to rise,
As in her match I did and do stil think,
his birth to hers in no point did suffice,
A Princes child inheritour to state,
too good I thought so farre to vndermate.

Queen. Alas good Sir, know you not at these yeeres,
that Loue doth alwaies fight on equal ground,
And where he mindeth match, he makes them peers:
if mynds agree the ground of states is found,
A Princely heart in meaner man may dwel,
where, if a Princesse like, she doth but well.
For when the eare is fed with worthes report,
when eie beholds what rauisheth the sight,
The heart straight to desire yeelds vp the fort,
where if againe like liking hap to light,
When vertues ioyne and like with like is knit,
what match is made more excellent then it?

This match should you mainteine where loue crept in,
not of himself but gesse-waies led by hand,
For vertue was the first that did begin,
against whose force whilest you thought to withstand,
In single termes as not allowing loue,
the compound strength of vertue you do proue.

You blame not him for mounting vp so hic,
she beares the blame for bending down so low,
Whom fortune bids looke vp, too blame were he,
if he should quale, and worthy ouerthrow.
And she too blame, of neere so high degree,
not casting Loue where vertues doth agree.

Alas

entertainment at Woodstocke

Alas whats birth though borne so much in eye,
the onely meane to blind who so is borne,
Who looking bigge with countenance on hye,
with vaine conceites holdes vertues gifte in scorne,
Vnhappy he that bragges in that behalfe,
where vertue lacks he proues himself a calfe.

Occa. You force me sore, yet this youle not deny,
that though Loues powre be not to be withstood,
And that the match of minds be beyond try,
and they best linkt where liking thinks it good,
Yet should my child of me make so smal store,
as match her selfe and not moue me before?

Queen. If match were made by onely meane of man,
you had byn first, as whom the cause concernd,
But what the Gods first moue doe what you can,
they wil passe on though parents be not warnd,
It is but vayne to say loue shal not winne,
vnlesse at your consent he first beginne.

Occa. But was not that vnkindly done of her,
vnknown to me to stray from Countries soyle,
Therby her Fathers blood so sore to stirre,
which for her sake doe take this yrksome toyle?
In kinde a child, vnkind to such a Syre,

Queen. Nay was not that vnkindly done of you,
vnknownen to her, to send her loue away,
To worke you both such woe as you feele now,
you for her sake, she for her Loue to stray:
In kynd a Syre, vnkind to such a child,

whose only fault hath child and Syre exildes a like glorie.

Occa. But nature shold haue borne with parents heire,
sith what was meane was meant bitt for her good,
The Loue of kind, subtil fancy loue shold beate,

and though she found me for a time in moodes

Tynke would haue turnd and causd me to relent,

The Queenes Maiesties

in that for which from me she slyly went.

Queen. Where nature doth but warme loue sets on fire,
and greater force of lesser is obayde,
For loue by choyce doth drawe more deep desire,
the loue of kind, by kind loue's ouer wayde,
Which maister like gives not time to relent,
but on he wil or make the man repente.

How could your Tigrish heart by fundring them,
which liu'd in heauen before you sought their hell,
Defeate the hold where Cupid held his claime?
but in these termes no longer for to dwell:
What if your child were offered to your face,
should she, or should she not obteine your grace?

And if her Loue for whom her toyle hath beene,
should come with her resolu'd to be her owne,
Should not this angry mood of yours void cleane?
answere me that for that thing being known,
Perhaps I would in part procure your easse,
so that their match your mynd might not displease.

Occa. This compound case doth cause a fight in mind:
to gaine my child my griefe would soone relent,
Though in her flight she followed not her kind,
but with her match I cannot be content.
But who are you Madam if I may craue,
to know your name which seekes them thus to saue.

Queen. I am the Fairy Queene.

Occan. O noble Dame,
whose skil is such, as nought is hid from you,
Nothing so darke but you doe know the same,
I know you know where both they be, and how
I may obteine the thing I haue so sought,
whose want I wrought and deereley haue it bought.

Queen.

entertainment at Woodstocke

Queen. Wel Sir, I doe perceiue you are content,
to take your child into your grace againe,
In hope whereof she shal straight be present,
to please her fathers sight, to stay his paine:
For other things discourse you when you meet,
all wil be wel since you are wonne from heat.

Goe myd, go, call your Lady here. *Rox. exit.*

Occa. I thanke you noble Dame for pityng me,
and tending this my silly daughters state,
Whom if it be my hap againe to see,
no such like heat shal set vs at debate,
And yet I hope by reason so to deale,
as that her match shal stand to Countries weale.

Acba. It wil bohard her settled loue to shake,
which grounded once is not light to remoue,
Yet for your loue and for her Countries sake,
it may fall out she wil forget her loue:
Which being new and young did rauish so,
now being old hath better leaue to go,
But yonder comes the maiden which was sent, *Gandina*
and lo my Ladie there for whom shewent. *& Roxa.*
Qs. Tis true my L. your daughter is in place. *entreteth.*
performe your speech and let her find some grace.

Gandi. espynng her father, falleth on her knees, saying:
Gandi. I must deere father craue here at your feet,
for mine offence your pardon to obtaine,
From whom to fly, I yeeld it was not meet,
yet Loue (my Lord) in me so sore did rayne:
As victor once repulse he would not beare,
but bade me seek my loue in place ech wher.

You vnderstand my Lord the course I kept,
you see the gods haue brought this geare to end,
These fatal listes could not be ouerlept,
but needs my wil to their great might must bend:

no

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For

The Queenes Maiesties

For fault to you their force I must oppose,
I am your child of me you may dispose.
Occa. Small pardon needs where grace is ready found,
Upon some better hope you haue discharge,
Affection heales where folly made the wound,
but these things are to be discouerst at large.
But now the meane to mend your present case,
is that you yeld and gaine your fathers grace.

This Lady here the Fairy Queene hath laide,
for your defence in so forsaking me,
As much as may in your behalfe be sayd,
to whom we both are bound exceedingly:
One point remaines wherein if you relene,
to take you home to grace I am content.

Queen. I dare my selfe for her part vndertake,
that on her side resistance wil be small,
To what request her father here shal make,
the cause once knownen, and circumstance withall,
To compasse your good will is her desire,
wherefore deuaund the thing that you require.

Occa. Gauding this long time you haue giuen raine,
to serue your chiose and feed your fancy still,
Wherin as you haue suffered part of payne,
so I became partaker of your yll,
Now is the time to come to reasons schoole,
which can alone these hot affections coole.

For loue to leaue the land where you were borne,
to tread your Fathers teares quite vnder foot,
To stray you wote not where as one forlorne,
to wander strangerlike in such a heat:
Doth ill beseem a person of your port,
which being done, to reason now resort.

entertainment at Woodstocke.

You are mine only child, heire to my state,
the wealth wherof doth rest vpon your choyce,
Which wil bewel if you in taking mate,
do vse aduise of Fathers careful voyce,
Mark wel, hereon doth hang your Fathers loue,
besides the good by you my state may proue.

I wil (considering both birth and your degree,
wherto at first I cast my chiefe respect)
To Countries good you chiefly haue an eie,
which calleth you home, and wils you to neglect,
The Loue of him which led you so astray,
and for her sake to take a better way.

Gaudim. A dainty choyse my Lord you offer me,
old rooted loue stil wedded to conceit,
With ruffull looke appearing in mine eye,
and to your suit presenting stil debate,
Whom Countries good and nature bids aby,
wherby my tongue knowes not whats best to say.

But good my Lord sith you which may command,
doe give me leaue for my defence to plead,
May it please you in short to vnderstand,
how things haue past twixt him and me indeed,
Which being heard, if you be not content,
my wil to yours shal presently be bent:

How worth in him did worke loue first in me,
in Princely state while I did liue at home,
Your selfe therewith displeasd did right wel see,
which banishing him inforced me to rome,
Because the baite which loue for vs had layde,
held vs so fast as it could not be stayde.

The Queenes Maiesties

By land and sea I wondred farr and neare,
not finding rest til *Sibyl* told me plaine,
het hap of that I hop'd remained here,
where I should rest and finish al my payne:
Successe confirm'd her speech, and here I found,
to whom by chained linke loue hath me bound.

For farther linke in mariage to proceed,
because therein I had not your consent,
I followed stil *Apollo* holy reed,
whose priest in that restrained myne intent,
And wild me not to mariage to give place,
til he should like of whom I tooke my race.

Our state is thus, our loue which thus did grow,
stands in these termes, in other termes yet free,
I loued where I likt which refst me froe,
I hasted on the thing I likt to see:
I sought, I found, our loue remayneth stil,
so to passe forth, if it be your good will.
Occa. If you stand free saue only that it please
the mighty *Cupid* this to cause you come,
Therein I find my heart wesoed,
and trust to match you wel when I come home:
With loue more fit for you then this can be,
where both estate and wealth shal wel agree.

Gaud. Alas my Lord, it is but fortunes gift,
to haue discent brought down from Princes traine,
The persons worth is vertues worthy drift,
which by deserft the highest place should gaine.
Care not for birth though it be neuer so base,
but vertue reke which craues the highest place.

Occa. As tis a chance to be a Princes child,
so if you thinke that vertue is restraint,
To one alone, therin you are beguilde,

entertainment at Woodstocke.

She doth refuse of none to be obtaind:
And where that roiall blood with vertues meet,
doth not such one best seem a Princely scate.

Such one I know in place where you were borne,
more fit for you then this to whom you cleaue,
Wherfore giue your consent, and thinke no scorne,
at Fathers suit your former loue to leaue:
For duty so despide for al my payne,
to find you out, I craue this only gaine.

Gauds. But yet my Lord consider al the toile,
which I haue past to compasse this my loue?
Shal old conceit at length receive the foyle,
whose force I feele not minding to remoue?
VVhen Loue forsaken shal reuiue agayne,
alas my Lord how sore wil be my payne:

To be constraind not once to cast a looke,
where I tofore did pitch my whole delight?
To leaue him thus, for whom I all forsooke,
how can true loue abide such poysoned spight?
VVhats to be said in this vnequall fight,
where loue denies what nature claimes of right?

O Cupid be content with that is past,
thus long to thee I haue my seruice vowd,
Let nature now preuaile at last,
what she demands hold it not disallowd:
And shal I then forsake my former ioy?
nay my *Gaudins* death were lesse annoy.

Plaint hath found meane, and loue hath won his right,
from whom but death no force shal seuer me,
Dame Nature be content, here in thy sight
my Loue I doe release and yeeld to thee,

The Queenes Maiesties

Yet neither loue nor nature may possesse,
but only death the mother to redresse.

Occa. See how this heate doth burst to extreame flame,
see what devise extreame desire hath founde,
She loues and cannot leaue, yet to voyd blame,
she hath found out another helpeles grounde,
By death to disappoint both our desires:
see reasons checke when sensesse loue aspires,

Yet this I may not leaue that is begonne,
Madam of you I must craue farther ayde,
By whom I trust this fort shal yet be wonne:
you haue perceiud by both what hath byn said,
You see the ground whereon my reasons leane,
to work my daughters weale be you the meane.

Queen. I see affection arm'd and loth to yeeld,
whom length of time and strength of loue support,
I see whereon perswasions right doth build,
which hath methinks possesse the strongest fort:
If loue had sight and reason could behold,
or fiery flame could be subdu'de with cold.

But Lady, geue me leaue whose friendship tride,
doth bid you bend your eare to that I say,
The trueth whereof cannot be wel denide,
though flaming loue in heate seeme to say nay:
Immortal states as you know mine to be,
from passions blind affects are quite and free.

If you may so consent to Parentes minde,
(wherwith is ioyn'd the wealth of countries soyle)
As loue cannot accuse you for vnkinde,
ne yet complaine himselfe to haue the foyle:
Considering he whereon your Loue is bent,
may haue your loue though you hercina reele.

entertainment at Woodstecke

If you forsake, not forst by greater cause,
loue then of some vnkindnes might you blame,
But weight of greater worth forbidding pause
if you withstand, you blemish much your name.
It were no loue that stood so in your sight:
but might be tearm'd meere madnes out of right.

Returne againe with parent whence you came,
regard the state which birth hath brought you to,
Relent to loue that wil augment your fame,
and yet this knight cannot, if you so do,
Condemne you much although you him forsake,
sith of two gods the greater you doe take.

Your Fathers reason springs from such a ground,
as cannot wel by reason be deny'de:
If he for you so fit a match haue found,
as for your birth no fitter may be spi'de,
What haue you then against him to withstand,
since nought but good can come from parents hand.

Set al aside, and onely this obserue,
to seeke you out, your knight he tooke no paine,
Yours was the toile, you did from countrey swerue,
you trauail'de stil, in rest he did remaine:
So that of you if loue craue further ayde,
you answere may, he hath his wages payde.

But though you may thus checke his loue you'lle say,
how shal I choake the loue which flames in me,
That, do my best, so keepes me at the bay,
as ties me fast when loose I faine would be:
So that I find, the goale must there be woon,
where fancy fights, and loue the broyle begun?

F

Your

The Queenes Maiesties

Your countenance seemes to yeeld, debarre al dout,
let meaner loue to greater quickly yeeld,
Your good it is these reasons goe about,
let common care giue priuate wil the field,
Why stand you stil as one in sodain traunce,
giue place to that your honour may aduaunce.

Gaudina. Th'assault is great, yet loue bids keep the field,
what al this time hath my long trauel won?
If now by light attempt I hap to yeeld:
these reasons helte before my flight begon:
What is now said but then the same was true?
the ground is old though floures be fresh and new.

When he by slight was so withdrawnen from me,
then did my loue condemne these reasons all,
And shall I now sith nothing els I see,
by yeelding thus procure both present thrall?
I rather choose to wander with him stil,
then so to change and countermaund my wil.

Brana.
I feele a false alarme as though there were,
a fitter match to be found out for mee:
No *Conuictus* no, I smel this geare,
to try if so I would relent from thee:
No, our consents haue ioynd this faithfull linke,
til thou saiest nay I wil not from thee shrinke.

And yet in thee if slender shewes take place,
Ile never yeeld for honor of my kind,
Let men remoue and slightly turne their face,
in womans brest more stay they stil shal find:
My parents pardon me my countrey stay,
for what is said from Loue I wil not stray.

Occan. You see how sore my headstrong daughter's bent,
she wil not yeeld for ought that can be said,

Were

entertainment at Woodstocke

WVere it not good that to the knight we went,
to see if his desire might be delaide:

I see by him the meane must first begin,
to quench the flame my daughter frieth in.

Queen. If it seeme good to you as't doth to me,
to him where as he is, we wil repaire,
For at his hand this must be wrought I see,
if he himselfe wil yeld to countries care:
Com Sir, and you Madam, let vs retire,
we haue to deale with him whom you desire.

Gauds. You may so with perwasions deale I think,
as he to your demaund may seeme to yeeld,
But inwardly that he from me wil shrink,
no reason can such ground bring for her shield:
Yet to doe that which both you do desire,
apart with you my selfe I wil retire.

Excuse.

Heere the Pages abiding, use a pretty art of sport, but because
the matter wil be full without it, I haue thought good not
so trouble you with such Parent besis, but making
their speeches ended I wil only recite the intro-
duction to their comming in.

Alexandro. But yonder comes the Fairy Queene,
and brings with her in trayne,
My Lord the Duke with merry looke,
I hope weis home againe.

Occa. the Duke, *Eambia* the Fairy Queene, *Con-*
sarenus, *Gandina*, *Roxa*, *Nipbe*.

Queen. You heare Sir Knight the parents iust request,
you see the force whereon his reasons stand,
Affections staies what wisedome thinks for best,
the matter rests al onely in your hand.
By nature you are farther to forsee,
you are therefore to strike the stroke, not she.

F 2

Occa.

The Queenes Maiesties

Occa. You know of old what led me so to let
the great desire wherwith you both so brent,
Against your worth my wil was never set,
to further Countries good was mine intent:

Which sith in me so constantly doth dwell,
to yeeld therto me thinks you might do wel.

Gaudi. Yet *Contaremus* think what is in you,
if vertues worth and waight in you be great,
And such as none but blind can disallow,
why should persuasions then vs two defeate,
As who say, any els might better see me,
then you and I to rule so great a realme,

Birth beares me out, and vertue beares vp you,
and why should any then therof mislike?

As certaine proofe shal stil preuaile I trow,
before that is vncertain how to like.

You are to choose my friend, make answere so
as you do not procure vs endles wo.

Conta. The choise is hard in midst of such extremes,
my Lord and Prince pretending Countries good,
On th'other side affections dazeling beames,
which stil wil shine though clypsted with a cloude,
Layeth in myne eye my Ladies due desart,
which nought but death can seuer from my heart.

What flashing flames did she at first abide,
when as on me her loue she did bestow?

What constance stil in her wrought on my side,
to keepe that loue whereto my life I owe?

What griefe did then consume her careful heart,
when as my Lord wil'd me from Court depart?

What was the zeale that made her so forsake,
the blisse which princely Court to her could bring,

And

entertainment at Woodstocke.

And for my Loue such passing paines to take,
to find me out where bruite of me shoulde ring.
Now should I swerue whom she so long hath sought?
death were too smal did I but fault in thought.

How can I leauue her thus and not deserue,
to be enrould with those infamous men,
Whom Loue, because they did from him so swerue,
hath painted out by Poets publike pen:
In hel to haue their wel deseruing hire,
for so defrauding loue of iust desire?

Yet pardon me Madam for waighing both,
if any harme do rise, the griefe is mine,
You to displease the gods knowe I am loth,
for whom my heart disdaines not any pinc.
Set loue aside til reason hath found out,
what is the best in that we goe about.

Against our Loue our Countries good is laid,
for whose auaille we ought not death refuse;
Then death for loue in Countries cause bewraid,
ought to reioyce and seeke no other scuce:
Yet leauing Loue for countries cause I die,
who wil not weep such happe on me to lie.

Because my Lord your father may well know
that vertue is the linke of this our Loue,
And not affection blind which leades vs so,
as being bent we cannot once remoue:
Marke Madam what I say, and yeeld consent,
it is your loue that caufeth me relent.

Without my Lord your parents free good wil,
at home with him what can his child enioy?

The Queenes Maiesties

And thus to liue in state a wanderer stil,
as you do now, what more may breed annoy?
Good Madam though I loue as no man more,
yeeld yet to him, withstand him not so sore.

You shal obteine such one by his foresight,
as he shal like, and countries weale shal craue,
You must regard the commdn weales good plight,
and seeke the whole not onely one to saue.
If you doe well, I cannot doe amisse,
though loosing you I lose mine onely blisse.

I doe foresee the grieve that wil insue,
when I shal find my selfe of you bereft,
VVhen careful mind my late mishap shal rue,
that voyd of you and of your sight am left.
A double death my doleful dayes shal feele,
yet I resigne my right to countries weale.

Qu. A noble speech confirming what was said,
that vertues worth was causer of your loue,
For sure my Lord it cannot be denide,
but that this minde a stony heart myght moue,
Which to his praise doth yeeld to Countries good,
the thing which to possesse so neare he stood.

Occa. Wel *Conra.* I must needs esteemme,
you of such worth as your estate doth beare,
And if it might so to all others seem,
you best deserue the garland for to weare.
But sith the fates against your vertues bend,
your vertue wils you this to condiscend.

Whereto this farre I yeeld if that you please
with me againe to Countrey to resort,
You shal in noble state there liue at ease,
and spend your daies in most delightful sport.

And

entertainment at Woodstocke.

And as for loue I banish't you my lande,
euен so for loue in grace stil shal you stand.

Cont. My Lord, what you haue done, your state maintains,
exiling me that did offend your eye,

My life must be in course of restlesse paines,
for her whom care of countrey doth denye.

Good hap light on the land where I was borne,
though I doe liue in wretched state forlorne.

Gauden. Alas that such a spirit cannot perswade,
Alas that state and vertue funder so,
Alas of worth no more account is made,
but thus from thee my loue must I needes goe.
Well sith he yeelds which hath most right in me,
Ah Countries good I yeeld my selfe to thee.

Occa. Now haue I that which though I bought with pain,
I think it light, the gain thereof so great,
Now I receive you to my grace againe,
whereof before Loue sought you to defeat.
The second mends the former fault doth heale,
since you giue place to care of Countries weale.

Queen. Wel now the force wherto your fate madeway
is wel expired, you haue the heauens to friend,
Who though they saw you runne so long astray,
yet haue they giuen your care a ioyful end.
Thinke on and thanke, it is a special grace,
first so to stray, then so to end your race.

Your peace is wrought Madam, retire with me,
to place where I do dwel from whence you may
To Countrey make repaire when time shalbe.
til when my Lord if you with me wil stay,
What things shal need for that your home retire,
I wil supply your want to your desire.

Occa. Your goodnes hath so bound both her and me,
as whilc we liue we be yours to command,

The Quenes Maiesties

By you is wrought this wished worke I see,
by power diuine, and by no mortal hand.
Passe on Madam let vs be of your trayne,
the causer of our ioy the healer of our payne.

Queen. And you sir knight whose honest yeelding made
the god consent which past to help this yll,
You may remaine as I before haue said,
where I do dwel with hearty great good will.
And euer haue the Fairy Queene to friend,
for vertues sake which I in you do finde.

Conte. Madam I am your owne stil to command,
as one you see of hap bereaued quite,
Resolu'd not to returne to countries land,
sith I haue lost what was my whole delight:
When resting pausse hath stay'd my troubled heart,
I will retire and draw my selfe apart.

And now sith cause of such importaunce moues,
my woful heart thus to forgo his loue,
Most worthy Dame sith chaunce so parts our loues,
that from my sight your presence must remoue,
Graunt me herein, sith now the last I see,
let not your loue all whole depart from mee.

Waigh wel the cause that mou'd me to relent,
which may perhaps imprint more deep conceite,
What man as I, his loue so firmly bent,
would yeeld the hold once maister of the baite?
The gods preserue your honour stil in health,
my priuate good, my common countries wealth.

And if your mind were set that home you will,
it were but labour lost, if I gainsaide,
And absent if your loue continue still,
my gayne is great who stil this ground haue laide,

That

entertainment at Woodstocke

That honest loue might thinke it no disgrace,
though they that loue do hap to sunder place.

Gandi. Wel, *Concarenus* wel, what shal ensue?
you are the cause whose yeelding makes me yeeld,
Yet of my word for euer hold this true,
wheron you may assured comfort build:
Til death my soule and body shal depart,
your loue shal lodge in some part of my heart.

Griefe calleth me hence.

Exit.

Contra. Such is my recompence.

Nowe doe I feele the pangs the Sea men bide,
which hauing harbour nigh in hope to land
By turning winde are driuen to try the tide,
and trust the Seas thereby to voyd the sand.
Now doe I feele the depth of mothers paine,
for death of child she hop'd to see againe.

Was euer man more neere his hauen of blisse?
his ship driuen forth with wind that fill'd the sayle,
Had euer man such cause of hopelesse misse,
as I which at the fal so soon did faile?
Did Fortune ere so sodain shew her power
as in her mitth so soon againe to lower?

When I had liu'd so long in strange exile,
in desart wastes commaunded stil to dwel,
Disfauored of my prince (alas the while)
and bard my Ladies sight my heauiest hel:
Againe at last though to her paine we met,
so Loue in her surmounted lucklesse let,

Which loue as it did worke in her to ease,
so Fathers search which sought to salue his losse,
Hath bred vs both more cause of great displease,
and tied vs thus to trie more bitter crosse:

G.

By

The Queenes Maiesties

By duety she is forced to relent,
and leaues to loue a leasure to repente.

Yet can I not *Gandina* blame therefore,
her hearty loue, her toyling tractes bewayles,
She is the lode where vertue makes her store,
it was her syre that bred my doleful daies:
Most happy he that on her loue can hit,
most haplesse I for so forgoing it.

And so farre went I yet as one that spied,
her whole estate depend vpon my graunt,
Though my mishap herein be not denied,
yet of her spide my selfe may iustly vaunt.
To worke her good my life I would forgoe,
as I haue done thought to my chdlesse woe.

Niphe and Roxane entretb.

Rox. Friend *Niphe* could we two haue euer once surmised,
that such euent would fall to this exceeding loue,
Or that blind *Cupid* could so quickly be suppressed,
which to all reason first so strongly gaue the gloue?
Ni. I neuer thought but that there might fal out some turn,
the stremme did run so strong, it threatned stil to stay,
The flame so flashing hot could not so alwaies burn,
but being closely kept would burst some other way.

Contar. What *Niphe*, art thou here, and heard'st my plaint?
with silent voyce couldst thou such griefe abide?
Which heretofore when fortune gaue the taint,
from sounding shril couldst not thine anguish hide?
Oh helpe in sound to shew my sorrowing state,
which seem'd to thee most happy but of late.

Niphe. I wil good sir doe al that lieth in me,
to easc your care whose care doth touch me neare,

To

entertainment at Woodstocke

To finde you out by lande, and eke by Sea,
my selfe did toyle twixt hope and trembling feare,
Whose shaking off in sort as now we see,
is sowre to you, and nothing sweet to mee.

But sith you may with licence of my Lord,
returne againe from whence you were exilde,
Why wil you not with him therein accord?
me thinks refusing that, you are beguilde.
There whom you loue, you may haue stll in fight,
which step in loue was neuer holden light.

Conta. Can I beholde another to embrace,
where I my selfe my Loue haue alwayes cast,
Would not my griefe bewray it selfe in place,
to see my Loue so cleerely from me past.
Good Niphe helpe, this is my last request,
to shew my griefe good Niphe doe thy best.

Niphe sing.

O silly Bird what feeles thy heauy brest,
which seeking foode to feed thy young withall,
At thy returne doest find thy empty nest,
and none therein to answere at thy call?
How can thy heart but melt away for griefe,
forgoing them to thee of late so liefe?

How could'st thou *Thisby* stay, by trembling hand,
from reauing thee thy then so lothsome life,
When dead on ground thy *Pyramus* gan stand,
who hop'd forthwith to haue thee to his wife?
The neerer hope the fuller fraught with gall,
when trust in hope to rest hath sodaine fall.

The Queenes Maiesties

Poore *Contarenus*, how hath Fortune fickle dame,
procur'd thy grieve in offring thee her hand?
VVhich in thy cause doth now deserue most blame,
when she would seem thy special friend to stand,
O ye that trust the whirling of her wheele,
beware the wrench at turning of her heele.

And you that looke aloft beyond degree,
when fayrest wind doth fill your flying fayle,
Hold fast for feare your fo'ring fickle bee,
when hope wil seeme to helpe you to preuayle.

So did she here with *Contarenus* play,
from whom she fled when she made shew of stay.

Conta. I thank thee *Niphe* for thy mournful song,
the tune whereof delights the doleful eares
Of such as iustly may complaine the wrong,
whose grieve dammes vp the stoud of trickling teares.
Farewell to both, sith I must needs depart,
beare witnes of my woe and careful heart.

And tel my Lady deere that I intend,
henceforth to seeke if I may meet her friend,
Loricus whom the Hermit did commend,
He bid him thinke and hope one day to find
Reward for that his faithful seruice long,
til when we both may plaine of fortunes wrong.

Yet say, I wil abide hers to command,
where so aduentures hard shal carry me,
Not leauing loue by Sea nor yet by land,
though that I loue, I never hap to see.
Oh careful heart opprest with such desires,
as lacks the ioyes that lyking aye requires.

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Yet

entertainment at Woodstocke.

Yet this I am assur'de her Princely heart,
where she hath lou'd wil neuer quite forget,
I know in her I shal haue stil apart,
in honest sort I know she loues me yet.
These thoughts in me mainteine the hope of life,
which other waies by death should end the strife.

Exit Contar.

Rox. Wel then I see our fortune must deuide,
we must againe to Countries land retire,
This knight delights in sorrowing to abide,
For missing her which was his whole desire.
My selfe haue felt such trauel on their traine,
as I am glad home to returne agayne .

The Gods send al good speed that tarry here,
and chiefly her which gouernes al the rest,
As for my selfe I wil spread farre and neere,
for princely prayse that she deserueth best:
And that God loued vs which made vs stay,
where vertuous Queene doth stately scepter sway.

Finis.



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